

The Iris Standard

Newsletter of the Ontario Iris Society

An affiliate of the
American Iris Society

Volume 12 Issue 2 – Spring 2017

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*Time to renew your
Sheridan Nurseries discount card.*

*See ONIS Matters for details.
If you don't have one, now is the time to
sign up for the 2017 season!*

Sheridan website link:

<http://www.sheridannurseries.com/>

ONIS Membership Fees

1-year single: \$10	1-year family: \$15
3-year single: \$25	3-year family: \$40

Check the ONIS website for details
<https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/>

Editor's Message

What did you think of our 'January thaw'? I must admit, it was the longest one I've ever experienced. Then February and March had spring-one-day/winter-the-next temperatures. Mark Twain's quotable quote, "if you don't like the weather...just wait a few minutes" was never more poignant!

As a result, our garden was topsy-turvy. The morning of February 18, as we headed out to 'Get the Jump on Spring', Terry found crocuses sprouting in our backyard. In early March buds on the reticulatas were seen poking through our evergreen bough mulch; about a month earlier than usual. As temperatures continued to 'roller-coaster' through March I thought they were lost however they survived the ride and bloomed on March 17!



The day of 'Get the Jump on Spring' was one of those spring days. With the soil still too cold to work, visitors came to the TBG with planting on their minds. The excitement of the season to come was evident. Pictures from the day can be found on page 6.

Starting on page 2, Terry continues his 'best performers' series. This time he lists his favourite Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB) irises, which should start blooming in a month!

Our annual American Iris Society (AIS) Sanctioned Flower Show is on Sunday, June 4 at the TBG. The show schedule has been published for those interested in showing off their irises to other iris lovers. We hope you consider joining us!

And now that this edition of *The Iris Standard* is complete I have time to drool over the 2017 Mid-America and Winterberry catalogues which came in the mail this week. Woohoo! Kate

President’s Pointers

By Terry Laurin

Since Miniature Dwarf Bearded irises (MDB) are the first bearded irises to bloom in the spring I thought I would provide a list of my favourites. These irises grow up to 8” tall. Because of their size they are perfect for rock gardens or the front of a bed. They also perform extremely well in our cold climate. In fact they perform so well it was hard to limit myself to just a few.



**‘Alpine Lake’
(Willott, 1981)**

This iris has been a mainstay in our garden since we started collecting. One of the first to bloom in early May, it forms a nice clump of snowy white blooms with a tinge of blue on the falls.



**‘Applet’
(M. Smith, 2006)**

This is a dainty, deep burgundy iris with bushy gold beards and slight ruffling. In my mind, the picture says it all.



**‘Compact Buddy’
(L. Miller, 1997)**

As the first MDB to bloom every year this iris signals the beginning of the iris season. It is a consistent bloomer, forming a nice clump once established.

‘Forever Violet’ (Chapman, 2002)

This iris may bloom slightly taller than the requisite 8” for the MDB class however the colouring, dark violet beards against soft violet falls, is remarkable.



**‘Hot Babe’
(Spoon, 2004)**

This is one of the last MDBs to bloom in my garden. It has slight ruffling and a standout maroon fall spot.

‘Lemon Puff’ (Dunbar, 1969)

This is another one of our first irises. It usually blooms during the spring rains but always manages to hold its shape.



‘Mini Plic’ (Brown, 1969)

As one of the earliest plicata MDBs this is a distinctive little iris; a good one for rock gardens.



‘Pokemon’ (Sutton, 2003)

This iris also blooms slightly taller than 8” however it forms a huge clump of golden blooms with contrasting blue beards.



‘Spiderweb’ (Spoon, 2003)

From Don Spoon’s ‘Spider’ series, this delicate little plicata has interesting markings.



‘Trimmed Velvet’ (Spoon, 2006)

This iris won the Caparne-Welch Medal in 2013. The velvety falls have a deep purple-black spot which shows off nicely the lavender blue beards. It blooms late in the season extending our MDB bloom to the end of May.



NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY (AIS)

From January 1 until October 1, 2017 ONIS is offering to pay part of your new* AIS membership.

AIS Membership Type	AIS Membership Fee in US\$	ONIS Reimbursement**
E-membership	\$15 US	2/3 of fee in CDN dollar equivalent
1-year Single	\$30 US	2/3 of fee in CDN dollar equivalent

Go to www.irises.org and click on the ‘JOIN AIS’ link.



* *‘New’ defined as someone who has never been an AIS member or has not been an AIS member for the past 10 years. Only one reimbursement per ‘new’ member allowed.*

** *Reimbursements will be made once confirmation of membership has been submitted to ONIS by the AIS Region 2 membership chair.*

[Visit the AIS TWIKI](#)

The IRIS ENCYCLOPEDIA of The American Iris Society, <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view>

Learn about hybridizers, view articles, books and catalogues in *The AIS Hager/DuBois Memorial Library*, watch videos from *The Iris Video Library* and much, much more!

It's Show Time, Folks!

For those members who like to exhibit irises from their gardens at the ONIS flower show, here is this year's show schedule.

For tips on how to show your irises, [click here](#) to access an article which previously appeared in *The Iris Standard*.

If you have any questions, please contact the Show Chair, Terry Laurin, at 905-841-9676 or by email at tlaurin@rogers.com.

ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY Annual Flower Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden 777 Lawrence Avenue E. Toronto, ON



Sunday, June 4, 2017
Show Setup: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Judging: 11:30 to 1:00 pm
Public Viewing: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Free Admission

Show Chair: Terry Laurin 905-841-9676
tlaurin@rogers.com

*Photo: 'Stitched In Blue' MTB (Fisher, 2006)
2016 R.D. Little Trophy Winner
Photo courtesy of K. Brewitt*

ONIS Awards

R.D. Little Trophy

Best Specimen (Queen of the Show)

Toronto Region Award

Second Best Specimen (Princess of the Show)

F.W. Caulfield Trophy

Highest total points in the Tall Bearded classes

Jean Sanderson Trophy

Best Canadian Introduction

W.J. Taylor Trophy - Best Seedling

Verna Laurin Plaque - Best Historic Iris

AIS Awards

AIS Silver Medal Certificate

Exhibitor with highest number of 1st place ribbons.

AIS Bronze Medal Certificate

Exhibitor with next highest number of 1st place ribbons.

AIS Section Medal Certificate

Most 1st place ribbons in qualifying sections provided minimum requirements are met.

Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award (AIS Region. 2 Award) – Best Historic Iris

Best Specimen of Show Certificate - Youth

Exhibition Certificates are awarded to the outstanding seedling, plus any seedling that obtains at least five (5) votes from certified AIS judges. All AIS judges are asked to contact the Show Chair in order to pick up seedling ballots.

Show Rules and Regulations

1. This accredited show is being held and judged under the rules and regulations of the American Iris Society (AIS). These rules and regulations may not be violated. Judges' decisions will be final.
2. All entries **MUST** be staged between 10:00 am and 11:30 am. Late and unnamed entries will be accepted for display purposes only.
3. Exhibition privileges are open to all, including judges. Judges may not judge their own entries however they may judge entries of immediate family members.
4. Only specifically authorized personnel will be allowed in the show area during judging.

5. This is a cultivar show. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag with the correct cultivar name and placed in the appropriate section. Members of a family may exhibit from the same garden.

Cultivars are to be arranged alphabetically in each section.

Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per cultivar; otherwise the number of entries by an exhibitor is not restricted.

Containers are furnished by the Society except where noted.

The Show Committee will aid the exhibitors to correctly identify the appropriate section.

Seedlings must be entered under seedling name or number and in the name of the originator.

Novices are those individuals who have never participated in an AIS sanctioned iris show.

Youth (persons under 19 years of age) may enter the Youth Division or the Adult Division but not both.

For Tall Bearded specimens, the stem length shall not exceed 25 cm (10") from the top of the container to where the first branch originates on the stem. It may be less if the stem is not of sufficient length.

6. Judging will begin at approx. 11:30 am. The show is open to the public from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Exhibitors may not remove entries prior to 3:30 pm. Unclaimed entries may be sold for the benefit of the Ontario Iris Society.

7. The Show Committee will exercise all possible care, but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.

8. Sections or groups for bulbous irises and collections are eligible to receive award stickers and special section awards. Award stickers are included in the tally for Silver and Bronze Medal Certificates although these entries are not eligible for the 'Best Specimen of Show' award.

Show Schedule

DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE

SECTION A - Tall Bearded Iris

SECTION B - Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB)

SECTION C - Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB)

SECTION D - Intermediate Bearded (IB)

SECTION E - Border Bearded (BB)

SECTION F - Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB)

SECTION G - Siberian (SIB)

SECTION H - Spuria (SPU)

SECTION I - Louisiana (LA)

SECTION J - Any other Beardless

SECTION K - Any iris of Canadian origin

SECTION L - Historic Iris (Introduced in 1986 or earlier)

SECTION M - Bulbous Irises (not eligible for Best Specimen of Show)

SECTION N - Collections (not eligible for Best Specimen of Show)

Class 1 - 3 stalks/one variety

Class 2 - 3 stalks/all different

DIVISION II – SEEDLINGS

SECTION A - Tall Bearded

SECTION B - Other Bearded

SECTION C - Other Iris

DIVISION III – NOVICE

SECTION A - Tall Bearded

SECTION B - Other Bearded

SECTION C - Other Iris

DIVISION IV – YOUTH

SECTION A – Bearded

SECTION B - Beardless

Exhibitors complete a point credit sheet during the Show and have it approved by the Show Chair. **Each point is worth \$0.30.** The accumulated points may be redeemed at the 2017 ONIS August Auction/Sale.

Major Trophy Awards: 10 pts

Court of Honour: 10 pts

Other Awards: 1st place 5 pts

2nd place 3 pts

3rd place 2 pts

'Get the Jump on Spring'

by Kate Brewitt

Seems Warton Willy knew what he was doing when he predicted an early spring! At almost 12°C it certainly felt like Spring had actually sprung. The warm, sunny weather was cheerfully welcomed as visitors came out to the TBG. Thanks to all the ONIS members who stopped by to say 'hello'!



Lots of plants and blooms to admire.



Farmer's Market with lots of organic food



Offerings at the ONIS Table



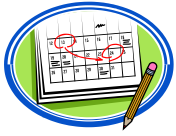
Spuria Iris Flower Display Wins Best in Show!



At almost 89, Margaret Bennet-Alder, comes to the TBG every year to promote her *Toronto Gardener's Journal*. Each year the cover features a picture of an iris, the emblem of the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario. This year's cover was of an *Iris neomarica* or walking iris.

If you would like to buy one of her journals,

visit www.torontogardenbook.com.



In the Months Ahead

Scarborough Seedy Saturday and Green Fair

April 1 - 11 am to 4 pm

Blessed Cardinal Newman High School

**100 Brimley Road South (south of Kingston Rd),
Toronto.**

Over 65 tables to delight gardeners and nature lovers with a seed exchange, seed vendors, parks and nature groups, kids' activities and more. ONIS will be there selling potted iris and seeds.

Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society Super Plant Sale

May 7 – 11 am to 3 pm

Toronto Botanical Garden,
777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto.

Free Admission

An annual fundraiser for ORGHPS featuring plants of all kinds grown by their members. There is also a used book sale. ONIS will host a table offering potted irises, seeds and information. For details visit their website at www.onrockgarden.com.

President's Open Garden

May 22 – 10 am to 2 pm

Aurora Borealis Iris Garden

120 Glass Drive, Aurora, ON L4G 2E8

See miniature dwarf and median irises in bloom. Children ARE welcome. Potted irises will be for sale with proceeds going to the Ontario Iris Society. Please email ahead tlaurin@rogers.com.

ONIS Annual Iris Show

June 4 – 10 am to 3:30 pm

Set-up starts at 10 am

Judging starts at 11:30 am

Open to the Public at 1 pm

Toronto Botanical Garden, Studio One

777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto.

Free Admission

Everyone is welcome to display bloom stalks from their garden at this American Iris Society sanctioned flower show. All visitors who vote for their favourite bloom stalk will receive a coupon for



a free iris rhizome from the table sales at the Annual Iris Rhizome Auction and Sale in August.

The Show Schedule, found on page 4, outlines the criteria upon which the bloom stalks are judged. It is also available from the ONIS website.

ONIS In Brief

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss these upcoming ONIS events. Details to follow in future editions of *The Iris Standard*.

August 13 – ONIS Annual Iris Rhizome Auction and Sale at the TBG.

Things to do in Ontario

Peterborough Garden Show

Evinrude Centre,

911 Monaghan Road,

Peterborough.

**April 7 – 9 – times vary with
day attended.**

For details visit their website at

<http://peterboroughgardens.ca/Showhome.html>



Toronto Botanical Garden Plant Sale

777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto.

May 13 – 15; 10 am to 5 pm

Choose from top-quality perennials, annuals, natives, herbs and vegetables, succulents, shrubs, vines, and small trees. For details visit the TBG website: www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca.

Youth Matters



Have you ever entered a flower show? Would you like to? [Click here](#) to find out how to groom your iris stalks so you

can enter them in the ONIS Annual Flower Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden on June 4.

For more information about the ONIS Youth group, contact Jinny Missons at jojimiss@sympatico.ca

Upcoming Iris Conventions



**Spuria Iris Society (SIS)
Los Angeles, California
May 5 – 6, 2017**

Hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society. Details are posted on the SIS website www.spuriairissociety.org.

Median Iris Reign Supreme in 2017



*Median Iris
Rule Supreme in 2017*

**Median Iris Society (MIS)
Mini Convention
Courtyard Marriott
150 Fairington Avenue
Lafayette, Indiana
May 18 – 20, 2017**

The Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana, Indiana Daylily and Iris Society, AIS Region 6 and the Median Iris Society will host a Median Iris Mini-Convention. Over three days, we will visit six gardens. More than 46 hybridizers have sent more than 278 varieties. There may be the best collection of MTBs ever...54 cultivars from 21 hybridizers! This mini-convention will be anything but mini! Check the Median Iris Society website for details: http://www.medianiris.com/mis_conventions.html

The Rhythm of the Prairie



**American Iris Society (AIS)
National Convention
Des Moines Marriott Hotel
700 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
May 23 – 27, 2017**

Hosted by Region 21 Convention attendees will tour six Des Moines area gardens, including two public gardens.

Check the Convention website for details: www.ais2017.wordpress.com.

ONIS Matters

2017 Member Benefit!

SHERIDAN NURSERIES is offering a 10% discount to ONIS members!



To take advantage of this program for 2017, you must be an ONIS member in good standing as of April 1, 2017.

To apply for this discount send your name, address and telephone number to Terry Laurin at tlaurin@rogers.com. Indicate "Sheridan Offer" in the subject line. Deadline is **April 15, 2017**.

Discount applies to most regularly priced merchandise and cannot be applied to discounted merchandise, Gift Card purchases, Landscape Design services, Tele-flora services, labour, Bulk Soil and Mulch delivery or other delivery charges. Discount card will be valid for one year.

**Welcome New and Renewing
ONIS Members!**

- C. Blakeman, Mississauga, ON
- L. Hickey, Toronto, ON
- T. Laurin/K. Brewitt, Aurora, ON



The Ontario Iris Society has a Facebook page. We hope you will 'like' us then upload your pictures, share your experiences and ask questions. It's the visitors to the page that make it a success!

Look forward to hearing from you!

The Iris Standard is published four (4) times a year; Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. Materials submitted must be received by December 1st (Winter), March 1st (Spring), June 1st (Summer) and September 1st (Autumn). Submissions may be edited for style and clarity. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the editor, oniseditor@gmail.com

Title page: Aurora, ON. Photo: K. Brewitt, Editor.